





# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1862.

There is no use in attempting to disguise the fact that we are on the eve of the most momentous character, or that the position of things is painfully critical. The present is a time for concealment. The public, in order to have confidence, must be treated with confidence. The people of the Confederacy, by their patriotism and constancy, have established their right to such treatment, and any other course will do harm. Island Number Ten has fallen. We have feared as much and more. We now first learn the fact through Federal sources. We must fear that this concealment or suppression of news, will do harm. We want to publish nothing that will interfere with military operations of the government in any way. We are not quite fools enough to be willing to do anything to add to the risk of the vessel in which our own lives and fortunes are embarked. But we are now come to the time when concealments are useless as they are useless. They can do no good, and the plainest truth, most plainly stated, can do no harm. The people are not afraid of the truth; if we thought they were, then indeed we might be given to despair of the Republic. But they are not. They are afraid of the secrecy that lay quiet, that suffered Albert Sidney Johnston to stand so long at Bowling Green without force, for fear of letting his weakness be known by taking the people at once into confidence, and appealing to them, as had finally to be done, with this difference, that it had been done at once, Beauregard's troops at Corinth would by this time have all been seasoned veterans, and not, as so many of them must now be, new, though brave levies.

We know that these remarks are distasteful, but they are true. We know that President Davis and his cabinet and all his officers, all indeed who not only have the fate of their country at heart, but a vast responsibility connected with their destinies upon their shoulders, are entitled to ask for and receive not only a ready support but a kind construction for all their acts, which are unquestionably dictated by an honest desire to promote the public good and secure the public independence in the tremendous conflict now pending. The government is as much interested as the people. The members of the government are of and from the people, and have the same rights to defend, the same interests to protect that the people have. They share the same dangers with the people, only in a still greater degree, as their prominence makes them a more conspicuous mark. It is in the perfect mutual confidence and full understanding of a direct between the people and their agents that the hopes of the patriot must be founded. Without this foundation, they must be doomed to disappointment.

We make these remarks with none of the feelings of mere newsmongers, deprived of exciting pabulum for a daily issue. The duties and the labors of the conscientious conductors of the public press in these times are painful and harassing to a degree which few understand or appreciate, and require frequently a serious effort to bring the mind up to their due performance in the midst of the trials of the country and the feelings of the individual. But they are necessary, for they afford the great medium by which, to a certain extent, the country holds communion with itself, knows its own position, discovers its own mistakes and suggests its own remedies. Of course there will be evils in this "institution," for it is an institution, and we except from the preceding remarks in this paragraph the few who would seize the present as a time for the advancement of party ends or private purposes. But as a whole, never has the press of the South or of any other country exhibited a higher spirit or a purer moral tone, and it can well afford to let pass the small sneers of the few officials in epaulets or out of them who think it something approaching to statesmanship to express a half-correct wish for its suppression, or at least a desire to witness its natural death. If it is not the government's appeal to the people or the people to the government. The stirring proclamation, the patriotic appeal find a voice through its columns. From its efforts great movements find their impetus, while its intelligence keeps the people from falling into that deadly apathy which flows from some conjecture and results in helpless despondency. It is therefore for the good, not of the newspaper conductors, but in number, but of the people, that as far as possible, so far as possible, should be offered to the full transmission of reliable facts, not affecting future movements or combinations or even the present positions of troops, but facts as to things that have actually happened and which must be as well known to the enemy as to ourselves.

Now this fall of Island Number Ten was not so unexpected as its announcement should have created any panic. Indeed the public had been prepared for it, and the Memphis papers said something about it, and then it appears to have been hushed up. It is a mistake that disasters need to be concealed from true people. Roanoke and Donelson only stimulated such. The wavering or the unfaithful seem to find them out at any rate. Number Ten to be held as long as possible, but it was not relied upon that it could not be taken or would not have been evacuated. Was it taken or was it evacuated? These are questions. We publish elsewhere the report of Commodore Foote to the Federal Secretary of the Navy, also certain remarks made in St. Louis on the 9th inst. by General Halleck. There is an apparent discrepancy, but we can form no opinion.

Our Richmond and other contemporaries comment with bitter mortification upon the whole train of circumstances connected with Island Number Ten. God knows there is plenty of ground for it, in connection with Number Ten and New Madrid. There has been altogether too much gas, and we may as well say it—whispering around with too many of our leaders. The harm that drunkenness does the soldiers is enough certainly, but who shall pretend to estimate the harm that has been done by drunken officers? We must come down to stern facts. It is true the enemy lies and gasses. Halleck lies about Corinth, and they all lie generally about things in general, but if things go on as they have been going lately, they will be able to retort the accusation upon us with interest.

The Convention of this State, which we think is the only one of these extraordinary bodies, the offspring of the movements of the last year, which still maintains its existence, met last Monday in the Capitol at Raleigh. Were we inclined to indulge in any vein of sarcasm, certainly the tenacity with which this body clings to existence, the uncertainty of its ultimate course and the frequency of its returns to the field of its protracted labors would afford ample scope for the indulgence of that humor. But the times are too serious, and the demand for earnestness too great to permit any deviation from plain statement, even for the purposes of irony. We do sincerely trust that the Convention and all its members are impressed with the gravity of the times, and that, throwing aside schemes of ambition, thoughts of preferment, or even measures of political change that might be safely broached in more quiet times, they will remember only the crisis that is upon us, only attend to the duties which it imposes.

That this body is an able one, no one will deny. That its members are individually respectable gentlemen will be generally conceded, yet that the people desire its protracted existence, or will look with favor upon any extension of the powers claimed by it, or upon the continued exercise of these powers, is more than doubtful. What the Convention proposes to do we can hardly say. It is to be hoped that it will do nothing that can be safely avoided. Called into existence by a necessity,

all exercise or assumption of powers beyond that necessity, or not clearly justified by it, must be regarded as an usurpation. The necessity must be positive and not merely speculative, else will it indeed be fairly liable to the censure which denounces "necessity" as "the tyrant's plea," as it too often is. Mere inferential necessity is a most dangerous cover for assumed powers. It is beyond controversy and without exception the plea under which all usurpations have taken place. It cannot be too closely watched by the people, nor too scrupulously avoided by their agents.

Conventions are but representative bodies, mere delegated agents, with whatever representative powers the people may temporarily clothe them for any specific purpose. The rights of the people are indefeasible, and cannot by any form of election pass from the people to any one hundred and twenty persons, no matter how intelligent they may be in fact, and how much more than intelligent they may seem in their own eyes. The people clothed a certain body with power for a certain purpose. That purpose was accomplished on the 20th day of May last, and any subsequent acts not absolutely required to give force and effect to the ordinance of the 20th May, 1861, are wanting in moral sanction, and deprived of the plea which alone can justify their assumption, or acquit those concerned in it from the charge of usurpation.

We make these remarks with no wish to rip up old sores. To let bygones be bygones is usually a good and genial maxim; it is especially so in times like these. Let the evils of the past be buried with it, but do not let its lessons be neglected or its experience forgotten. That the Convention has already protracted its existence and extended the sphere of its operations beyond the sanction derived from the people at the time of its election, or any subsequent endorsement by public opinion, is brought forward simply as a fact, not argued as a charge. We must believe that the majority of the members recognize this fact, as also the additional fact that now, still less than at any former time, is a fair opportunity presented for the discussion of changes in our fundamental law or domestic policy. It is not fair, it is not just to the people of the East, whose eyes are turned in a wholly different direction, whose homes are menaced or invaded, and whose rights and feelings are certainly entitled to some little respect from their more fortunately situated brethren in other sections of the State.

In this connection, we find that the gubernatorial question occupies a place, since the proposition to choose a successor to Governor Clark by the convention, mooted more than once before, is likely to be again revived under the plea of necessity. As we have said before, the doctrine of constructive necessity is one of the most dangerous that can be adopted or acted upon in the history of a free people, especially when the policy in justification of which this doctrine is pleaded, is one which tends to the circumscription of popular rights, and to the acceleration of that process by which power is ever prone to steal from the many to the few. As the barons at Runnymede, so the people of North Carolina at this time. They were then unwilling to change the laws of England. The people now are unwilling to change the laws of North Carolina. The selection of a Governor belongs to the people, and the necessity, to justify any deprivation of even suspension of this right, must be controlling indeed, and not merely speculative or inferential. It will not do to say that the convention is in fact the people. It is the creature of the people. Neither will it do to say that the convention being composed of a very able and a very good set of men, is better qualified to choose a governor, and exercise other popular rights, than the people themselves. This is but the plea of all oligarchies and of all autocracies for that matter. Neither can it be said that the convention is free from party bias or personal aspiration. On the contrary, the Convention contains more aspirants in proportion to numbers, than any similar body we ever knew. Our knowledge, we admit, is limited and our judgment may be defective, but in this matter we can freely appeal to any person who knows the public men of the State, to bear us out. We make this not as a charge, we state it as a fact. We can hardly admit the peculiar acceptability of the Convention as an elective body; and any election by that body will be most clearly an usurpation, unless justified by an overruling necessity, amounting to some insuperable obstacle to the direct exercise of the power of election by the people themselves.

As for the gubernatorial question, apart from the Convention, we have already said that we desire a suspension of discussion for the time being. We have made no attack upon anybody because others have hoisted their names. We have hoisted the name of no person. This is no time to indulge in the old political manoeuvre to forestall public opinion by publishing little scraps of letters as the voice of the people. Such things are out of place and out of time now. We have referred to charges preferred against Mr. Johnston, not as they were calculated to affect his candidacy, but as they were aimed at a large class of the citizens of the State to whom the proscription directed against Mr. Johnston would equally apply. Mr. Johnston is a very clever and capable gentleman. So are others. There is no need now to get heated about their respective claims. There are no claims, but those of the country.

We continue to receive letters from perfectly respectable parties in Onslow county, in reference to the recent Federal outrages there, confirming all that we have already stated, and representing the state of things in Jones and Onslow as distressing in the extreme. As, however, these letters simply contain details already given in the public press, we forbear their publication at present, especially as we know that the military authorities have been fully informed as to this matter.

Retaliation is the only resource that we see left to put a stop to outrages disgraceful to humanity and violative of all the rules of civilized warfare. Let General Burnside be at once apprized that whatever severity is shown or indignity offered to the persons of the humblest citizen of North Carolina, will be publicly indicated, in retaliation, upon the Federal officer or officers of the highest rank now in any prison or prisons in this State.

The wildest reports are in circulation in Onslow, and of the most contradictory character. That many of them are exaggerated and some of them groundless we have no doubt, and indeed in the state of feeling produced by the incursion of the enemy this was to have been anticipated. We have given no mere rumours, our statements being founded generally upon official reports; and yet we cannot vouch for their entire accuracy, since, with the most conscientious endeavor, our informants themselves may have been unable to separate rumour from facts or avoid unintentional error. We feel confident, however, that the statements of our correspondents are in the main correct, or at least as nearly so as they could be made under the circumstances.

The following dispatch appears in the Richmond papers of last Saturday:—  
CORINTH, April 17, 1862.—Report of Commanders show that 14 pieces of the enemy's artillery were brought from the field of battle. Over 25 colors and 3,000 prisoners were captured.

Extract of a Letter to the Editors of the Journal, dated Kinston, N. C., April 18th, 1862.  
No news of interest about here at present. Our pickets are frequently coming in contact with Yankees; five of the pickets were killed last night.  
It is the opinion of some that Burnside is preparing to advance. My own opinion is that there will be no advance in this direction until a decisive action shall have taken place on the Peninsula; if the Federals are defeated there, they will not expect any advance here. Up to this time we are blessed with good health in all our camps.

We receive to-day by telegraph, the report that Nashville had been retaken by Gen. E. Kirby Smith and Humphrey Marshall. We must confess that all this appears to us to be very doubtful, but we give it as we get it. If the report had said Huntsville, we might have been more ready to give it credence, since that was believed to be on the programme the last time we in this part of the world were permitted to take a slight glance at it.

The news from the Charleston Courier about the fall of Pulaski only confirms us in our first opinion. Our first feeling on hearing of the sudden fall of that work, was one of blank astonishment; our first opinion was that all could not be right. The big stories of breaches made in less than no time—balls fired nearly a mile off going clean through the walls as though they were sheets of paper, and all the other statements, no doubt honestly made by the Savannah papers, sounded strangely to plain sort of people like ourselves. We happened to recollect that our batteries on Morris Island were considerably nearer to Fort Sumter than any land batteries that the enemy could possibly plant against Pulaski, and we knew that Sumter was not breached at all by our fire. We also happened to have some recollection of the Crimean war, and of the fact that batteries at a thousand yards, were regarded as almost useless, and that finally the allies worked their approaches so actively, that their last parallel was so near to the Russian works that the smoke and flash of the guns of the contending parties almost blinded both. We didn't more than half believe that the Fort could have been breached as asserted. We don't believe a word of it now. The Northern military and civil authorities may well be struck with the ridiculous conduct of those in charge of a Fort who made no effort to prevent the completion of all the preparations for its capture, and when these preparations were finished, hardly made a show of resistance.

If this is to be the history of our forts, if they are to be abandoned as soon as there appears to be a danger that somebody may be hurt, then they had better all be blown up at once. It is strange to read of the eagles sustained by the hired mercenaries of European monarchies—to see how they have held out for days and weeks and months, until food grew scarce and they ate their very boots, and they were on short allowance of water and their chained ranks and in their emaciated frames—it is strange, we say, to read these things, and then to read of Southern freemen fighting for their own homes and the homes of all that ought to be dear to them, giving up a fort after thirty-two hours of fire, not breached and with very few casualties, while the boyish commander assures the world that he has "done all that man can do."

Will this sort of thing do? Can it do? Either this sort of thing must be stopped or the war might as well stop. The time for concealments and "soit sorder" is past. The thing must be changed. Men must do better. More inexperienced youths must not be put in such isolated posts requiring strength of mind, experience and will. The press and the public must put their face against these unresisting captivities, and that will do more for the country than any tale of horrors that ever happened, or any attempt to justify what is not susceptible of excuse save upon the ground of incapacity, and then the burden of blame rests on the appointing power. We have too many mere boys in positions of responsibility. We want stern, determined men, who will have a moral ascendancy over their commands, as well as the mere formula of a commission, and who are self-balanced and prepared for any emergency.  
Daily Journal, 22d inst.

The Convention on the Government.  
Owing to an unfortunate habit we have of thinking that two and two make four, and of forgetting that any honest person can make five, we no doubt fell into a grave error last week when speaking of the time which must elapse between the date of that writing and the time for holding an election for the next Governor of North Carolina, which we put off to some three and a half months or more.

We were aware that the Convention or its members considered themselves "masters of the situation," and above control by any impediments that the constitution of North Carolina might interpose, but we hardly supposed, or at any rate we had forgot to make allowance for the fact that they also ignored the laws prescribed for the regulation of the human constitution, mental and physical. It was once thought that the framers of our present constitution, or what was our constitution before the Convention met, were men of at least fair common sense, and might have been supposed to have taken into consideration the fact that men must die sometime, and that Governors being but men, may die during their term of office, as well as at any other time. Seeing this, they made provision to fill any vacancy arising from the death, absence or inability of the Governor. But so stupid were they, as we are told, that, having their attention directed to this very matter, they left their business ridiculously incomplete, and left the space of time between the first Thursday in August and the first day of January an incidental interregnum, liable, though not likely to occur every other year. To suppose that this thing could have escaped the attention of the Convention of 1835, is to ascribe to that body an amount of willful fatuity, the length and breadth, depth and thickness of which it required the immense acumen of the present body to measure and ponderate. Yet the presumption that the Convention of 1835 left such a *onus omnisus* in the Constitution as would leave nearly the half of every other year liable to an interregnum in the Executive department, is that upon which the Convention must proceed, if it declares the existence of a vacancy in the Executive from and after the first Thursday in August next, and proceeds to supply that vacancy, either by its own direct action, or by providing for an extraordinary election by the people, in advance of the usual time. Plain people would be apt to suppose that men had died before 1835, and, indeed, there is some evidence that the Convention of that year was not wholly ignorant of this fact, or of the further fact that every man was liable to die at least once, and that at no particularly stated time. This evidence is afforded by its providing for the contingency of death on the part of the Governor; but such a provision is the understanding of the present Convention is the correct one. To suppose such an understanding correct would be to attribute to the leading minds of the not remote past a degree of obtusity which it is disrespectful in their descendants, successors or survivors to look upon as possible.

However, as all things are possible, we need only add that our remarks as to the remoteness of the time for holding an election for Governor were based upon the assumption that such election would take place at the usual time, and in the usual manner. As we have no assurance of that, or of anything else, we fear our remarks will have but little practical value.

We have been asked more than once if Mr. Graham is really a candidate for Governor, or would even consent to be run. We do not know. We heard that during former sessions of the Convention, when the idea of an election by that body was mooted, Mr. Graham positively would not accept, even if chosen. This was on what we supposed to be good authority; it certainly was, so far as the means of information possessed by the gentleman from whom we heard it went. We believe it so.  
Mr. Graham is now pushed forward, whether with or without his own consent, we cannot say. It cannot be without his own knowledge. In his last man, after all, that is really meant by the pushers? We will see if we keep our eyes open.

The Constitution Law, &c.  
We said at the time of first publishing this law that our idea of how far it might be justifiable must depend altogether upon its being dictated by the economy.

As to the ability with which this particular bill is drawn, or the justice and wisdom of each one of its provisions, we are not prepared to speak, neither can we adduce the facts or reasonings upon which our conclusion of the necessity for some bill of this kind is based, but they are such, as had we been a member of either house of Congress, must have been conclusive with us in favor of some such action. The interests of the public service forbid any more minute reference to these matters, but hereafter when the seal of secrecy is removed, we feel assured that the members who voted for what is known as the Constitution Law, of the late session, will be fully exonerated from all the blame cast upon them by those who are either ignorant themselves, or express upon the ignorance of others, feeling secure in the belief that the time for removing the injunction of secrecy is not sufficiently near at hand to frustrate their present objects of making capital for selfish purposes. We have no confidence in the mere organic servility that, as a matter of course, endorses all the acts of those in authority, and as little in the "forcible-feculence" that seizes upon some apparently exceptional act, to afford it the chance of exhibiting a sort of galvanized vitality, which everybody knows is no part of its real life or character.

Mr. MEXICANA, the French Minister, has returned to Washington, and we are about as wise as we were before, in reference to the objects of his visit to Richmond. That he does not like Richmond personally, we are certain, but that his visit to Richmond was for any purpose of alliance with the South, of intervention in its favor, or of immediate recognition, we do not think. We care to indulge in no speculations, but we think it as well to put our people upon their guard against forming any anticipations based upon this visit of the French minister. Just now, we would rather be left alone. Until some more decided successes have crowned our arms, we have more to fear than to hope from European intervention.

THE GOLDENROD TRIBUNE, we are happy to see, is not in the least dead, but alive and hearty. The Tribune hints that there be people that would like to see it no more, but we think it is mistaken. It is true all have their enemies, but we should really think that our venerable contemporary, the Editor of the Tribune, would have as few as anybody could have.

A letter from Beaufort, N. C., of the 10th inst., published in the New York Herald, among other things says:—  
Major Allen, who is the Provost Marshal of Beaufort and vicinity, has administered the oath of allegiance to some 300 of the male residents. Now, allowing four persons to a family, it will be seen that out of the population of the place, which is about 1600, three-fourths are loyal to the Union.

Another letter of the same date, written from Newbern, furnishes the following information:

The rebel Generals Gatlin and Branch, who commanded the enemy previous to the fight here, have been arrested by order of the authorities at Richmond, and are now in confinement at the Arsenal, awaiting trial by court martial. They are charged with cowardice upon that and previous occasions. The rebel prisoners, now in our hands, numbering about 150, including Col. Avery, are to be sent North in a few days, under the recent order of the War Department to release no prisoners until Col. Corcoran is set at liberty. They are on board the transport Cosack, Capt. J. W. Bennett.

From the Norfolk Daily Mail, 22d inst.

Further from the Fight at South Mills.  
The steamer Arrow arrived here last night, bringing a couple of our wounded, and two Yankee prisoners, members of the 89th New York Regiment. She also brought 1100 pounds of ammunition and some ten or twelve boxes of 12 lb. howitzer shot, captured by our forces.

We gathered the following particulars from several aboard the boat, who were engaged in the fight.  
The action began at 12 o'clock, at a point two miles north of South Mills, where our forces had preceded for the purpose of attacking the enemy.

Our forces consisted of six companies of the 3d Georgia Regiment and McComas' Artillery. The companies were not full and the whole number of men on our side may be set down at from three to five hundred. The enemy's force, by their own admission, through the prisoners captured by us, consisted of five regiments of the 9th N. Y., 2d N. Y., 69th N. Y., New York, Col. Hawkins, 4th Pennsylvania 31st Massachusetts, and a New Hampshire Regiment, in command of Brig. Gen. Reno.

The battle lasted until 5 1/2 o'clock, P. M., when our forces were ordered to fall back on their entrenchments at South Mills, which they did in good order. The enemy, on the ground, had during the night become panic-stricken and fled in confusion.

They made a regular stampede, and so fearful were the reports of our prowess, that, as they fled, they burned the bridges after them to prevent a successful pursuit. The casualties on our side are few, consisting of six killed, and about twenty-five wounded. The enemy's loss is very great, but cannot be arrived at with certainty. On the ground, we found the bodies of many among them one with a headstone marked "Adjutant." There is reason to believe from the statements of the prisoners, that they lost many of their officers; and from all we have been able to gather, it is probable that the statement we gave yesterday of their loss, namely, eight or nine hundred, will prove correct.

Island 10.  
A considerable number of those who escaped from Island 10 arrived in this city yesterday morning. Many of them endured great privations and fatigue. Among the arrivals was the brave Captain Rucker, the hero of Rucker's Battery, that so obstinately and daringly contended with the enemy's gunboats. We were pleased to find him well and hearty. He hopes to be in a position again before long to try his very best efforts against the enemy. He is strongly of opinion that ex-Major Baugh is a prisoner. He says Mr. Baugh was among the survivors of the capture of the ship, the destruction of the throat; that the route he took was occupied by the enemy soon after his departure. We have spoken with others, however, who dissent from the opinion and assert that he fell in company with Mr. Merriweather, who is intimately acquainted with every foot of the country, and that he arrived safely on this side of Reelfoot Lake.

Capt. Rucker was the bearer of the following, addressed to us by Lieut. Thomas J. Finnie:  
EDWARDS FALLS.—The men comprising the companies of Capt. A. Jackson, Sterling, Rucker, Jones and Caruthers, of the Artillery, also a few men with Lieut. Baggett, and a few from the 1st Ala. and the 13th Ark. Infantry are here safe, but very destitute of comforts, as their only possessions consist of the clothes they wear.

First Lieutenant Artillery, U. S.  
Bell's Station, M. & O. R. R., April 11, '62.  
Bell's Station is the place of rendezvous.  
Memphis Appeal, 13th inst.

FROM HAVANA AND KEY WEST.—We are indebted to the Captain of a vessel, which arrived yesterday evening for a list of the contents of the captured stores, an assorted cargo, consisting of coffee, tea, soda, oil, lead, kerosene oil, &c. She had a good run from Havana, making the fleet off Pensacola at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. She gave them a wide berth, and favored by a strong southwest wind, came kiting through the swash, rounding Mobile Point at twenty minutes past two o'clock. The fleet off Pensacola consisted of eighteen sail—two square rigged, the rest apparently masted vessels. Passed the Miramon ten miles out from Havana, bound in, and another Northern steamer, painted green, a few hours afterwards.

From a passenger on board recently from Key West we learn that the conversation there was of a simultaneous attack upon Fort Pulaski and New Orleans. The Federals expected something from their large vessels, but not much from the mortar boats, one of which, in some experimental firing at Key West, "shook herself to pieces." It was the understanding there that the Virginia was victualled and supplied with ammunition for a long cruise, and great fears were entertained that she would visit this port. The vessels at Key West were the Niagara, the Mohawk, and two other inferior steamers, and a few transports. A few days before our informant left, Captain Campbell, of the Mallory, and four Key West Seamen, had given the Federal ship, leaving in an open boat.

The following from Northern papers may have some interest. We do not know what credit to attach to much of it, but fear that there is too much truth in reported "union" feeling about Beaufort—or perhaps more correctly, want of Southern feeling there. It did not require the presence of the invaders to awaken the feeling of infidelity to the Confederacy in that spot, we apprehend:—

PORT MAISON.  
BEAUFORT, N. C., March 31.—The chief interest of the Beaufort population is at present mainly centered in the proposed investment of Fort Macon, which, as stated in my last letter, is situated about equidistant from Beaufort and Morehead City, across Bogues Sound. The distance from these places to the fort is about a mile and a quarter. It is a small fortification, but very strongly built, and is partitioned by about six hundred men, under the command of Col. White, (not Smith, as before reported,) formerly an officer of the United States army, and a graduate of West Point.

INTERPRETATION OF A MAIL.  
Major Allen of the Fourth Rhode Island regiment, who is in command at Beaufort, a few days since intercepted a large mail from the fort, from which he obtained valuable information, and was returned to the condition of the troops, the supply of provisions, &c.

SUPPLIES AT THE FORT.  
The fort is supplied with sufficient of certain kinds of provisions to last several months, but of others the stock is very short. Col. White, who appears to be a misanthropic, sullen and unhealthy style of man, threatened to shell Beaufort with his long range guns, if the troops were not supplied. They have been stopped, but as many of his troops belong to, and have relatives and friends in that city, he has probably thought better of it, his threat not having been executed. He compensates himself for this, however, by firing upon every fishing smack or other craft, however small, which attempts to pass between Beaufort and Morehead City, both of which places are occupied by Union troops. The reduction of the fort is but a question of time and labor, but Col. White is evidently disposed to put our forces to all the trouble possible, there seeming to be no other reason for his refusal to surrender at discretion what he must soon be forced to give up.

Your correspondents left Newbern Thursday, P. M., in the steam transport Union, Capt. Chaumera, who took a cargo of ordnance stores and army wagons and horses, under charge of Lieut. Flieger, of Gen. Burnside's staff, to Havelock Station, near the head of Slocum's creek, from whence they are to be sent to the scene of operations.

ATLANTIC AND NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.  
After the report of the return at Newbern, they took away with them all the locomotives and cars of the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad (except a few flat-iron and hand-cars) to Kinston and Goldsboro, and burned one bridge between Newbern and Kinston, besides the long bridge at Newbern. In addition to the rolling stock left by them, there are some hand-cars, brought from the depot at Newbern, and some of the cars are used very useful in transporting the army stores and material. A locomotive and additional rolling stock will also soon be here from the North, which will very largely increase the usefulness to the army of this road. It is occupied and guarded between Newbern and Morehead City by the Rhode Island 5th company, and at present is of considerable importance.

The bridge over the river at Newport City was burned by a detachment from Fort Macon on Tuesday, the 18th—four days after the battle at Newbern—and almost entirely destroyed. The bridge was 180 feet long, and very substantial and well built.

MAJOR WRIGHT, OF THE FIFTH RHODE ISLAND, who is an excellent civil engineer and a practical bridge builder, as well as a most valuable officer, was detained by Gen. Burnside to inspect the ruins of the bridge and report in regard to its reconstruction. He was subsequently ordered to occupy Newport with his battalion, where they arrived on Sunday, the 23d inst. They took possession of the city, and found an excellent location for substantial log houses, sufficient for the accommodation of a large force, which had been built by the rebels and abandoned by them after the late fight.

The houses were left in very good condition, and only one or two of them had been burned. Captain M. J. Field with a party of mechanics, had also been detailed to the reconstruction of the bridge. Work was immediately commenced, and, assisted by some extra hands picked up in the neighborhood, has been pushed vigorously ahead, and a great amount of labor performed in a very brief time. Under ordinary circumstances, the reconstruction of the bridge would have required at least five or six weeks. Cars were run over the bridge on Friday evening, the 28th inst., and it was completed in a remarkably short time. The reconstruction of the bridge is nothing new to prevent the rapid transmission of material required to reduce the fort, and operations for that purpose will be at once commenced and vigorously carried on.

The reconstruction of the bridge, a temporary fortification erected by the rebels to command the country around Newport, has been destroyed. The rebels had transported to, and used in the reconstruction of the bridge. The Rhode Island Fifth, in addition to this duty and the charge of the railroad, have pickets thrown out at Newport over a circuit of two miles—nearly every man of Major Wright's battalion being constantly engaged in these various duties.

FURTHER DESTRUCTION BY DETACHMENTS FROM FORT MACON.  
The detachment from Fort Macon, in addition to the destruction of this bridge, burned a large rebel camp near Carolina City, which had also been abandoned by them after the Newbern fight.

ENGLISH VESSELS DETAINED.  
The ships Alliance, Captain DeForest, from St. John, N. B., and Concord, of Liverpool, Captain Goodwin, are lying at the dock at Morehead City. The Alliance is loaded with a cargo of resin and turpentine, and has also a cargo of cotton on board. She was originally from Liverpool, and arrived at Charleston in June, and finding that port blockaded, proceeded to St. John, N. B., where she discharged her cargo and took in an assorted cargo; what it was, I believe the Government are fully informed. She arrived at Beaufort August 22d, and landed her cargo on the 25th, at the dock at Morehead City. Two days after, she was loaded with her full cargo; but the United States blockading steamers arriving off this port, the ship has not since attempted to go to sea. The Concord is also loaded with resin and turpentine. Guards have been placed on both vessels by Major Allen.

A vessel was burned near the Fort on the 28th, but by whom is not known, probably to prevent her falling into the hands of the Union force.

MATTERS HERE AT THE FORT.  
The Stars and Bars float defiantly over the Fort, and with a glass the sentinels can be seen pacing to and fro upon the ramparts. Colonel White has taken down the lighthouse to the left of the Fort and burned other buildings, in order to leave nothing to interfere with the range of the guns, which are placed on the batteries. Morehead City and Beaufort are commanded by a detachment. The Union flag which floats over Beaufort was found in the Post-Office in that place.

DOUBTFUL UNION SENTIMENT.  
None but Union men, of course, are to be found in the district occupied by the Union troops, but the genuineness of this pretended Union sentiment is very doubtful. It is remarkable, if we may believe the stories told by those who have been friendly to the rebel army, that many have been found unwillingly entering the rebel service. As yet I have been unable, in conversing with the citizens of this State, to hear of any one under the rank of Captain in their army who has not been drafted, or volunteered to save themselves from being drafted. That there are genuine friends of the Union here is unquestionable, and some of them white, but the majority are of color, and they are universally delighted at our presence and the discarding of the Stars and Bars. They appear to be well informed in regard to the causes and the probable effect of this struggle, and willing and anxious to do all they can to aid us. A good many of the more valuable of the slaves have been carried off by their owners in their flight, and the jail at Goldsboro is said to be filled with them, placed there for sale keeping.

GENUINE UNION FEELING IN BEAUFORT.  
There appears to be more real Union sentiment at Beaufort than in any other place in North Carolina yet occupied by our troops. Our forces were met by the Mayor on landing, and cordially welcomed to the city. A large majority of the citizens profess to be favorable to the Union cause, and Major Allen's quarters are constantly thronged with those desirous of taking the oath of allegiance. The postmaster and some other citizens have left the city, but the most of them have remained, and are, as far as possible, pursuing their usual occupations. The Confederate Collector of the port attempted to get away, but was pursued and captured. Twenty-five hundred dollars in Confederate currency, which he had received for his duties on the cargoes of the vessel which had run the blockade, was found in his possession. He is now held a prisoner. He is represented as having been one of the most violent secessionists in this section of the State.

BLOCKADING VESSELS.  
There are four vessels outside blockading the port, and which will co-operate with the land forces in the capture of Fort Macon. They are the steamer State of Georgia, the gunboat Albatross, the propeller Albion, and the bark Gemco. The officers of the Albatross fleet communicate with the officers in command of the fort. First Lieutenant Haxton, of the State of Georgia, having landed a few days since, and, subsequently, another officer from the fleet, without molestation.

SERVICES AT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.  
At the Episcopal Church in this town, this morning, services were held as usual—the clergyman officiating. There was very good attendance of the people of the place, and the rector read the prayer for the President of the United States, the Senators and Representatives, and all who are in authority, in place of the one for the President of the Southern Confederacy, &c., previously used.

LETTER FROM NEWBERN.  
NEWBERN, N. C., April 31, 1862.  
After a few days' absence at Beaufort I returned to this city yesterday afternoon. The streets are still quiet with troops, reinforcements coming forward rapidly. Among the recent arrivals I notice the Seventeenth Massachusetts, who are present in the city, and are much admired—and the First Maryland Regiment.

ATTACK ON OUR PICKETS.  
There has been some excitement here to-day, in consequence of an attack, on Monday night, by a party of rebel cavalry on our pickets, who are stationed for about ten miles towards Kinston. During the night two mounted pickets were killed in the advance, and were suddenly attacked by a party of about thirty mounted men.

They fell back rapidly towards the infantry pickets, and one of them escaped, receiving quite a severe wound in the back of his head. He was pursued by one of the party nearly up to where the other pickets were stationed. The horse of the other man, who was without his rider, a strong party was immediately sent in the advance, and he was made a prisoner. They found the dead body of one of the enemy, shot through the heart, and captured another of them. It is reported that the rebels have advanced a brigade eight miles this side of Kinston, where they are said to be in considerable force.

It is not probable, however, that they will make an attack on the forces stationed here, although they may have been their intention previous to the arrival of reinforcements.

CONTRACTORS IN THE UNION BREASTWORKS.  
General Burnside has a large force of contractors engaged in constructing breastworks about half a mile from the rebel works, which, with the aid of the gunboats will effectually prevent any advance of the rebels at their humiliating defeat on the 14th and the subsequent occupation of this city by the Union forces, is so great that they would undoubtedly rip up at its destruction; but the vigilance of the General and his officers and men have them to hope of accomplishing even this. It is not probable, however, that the policy of the campaign causes another advance upon them and adds another defeat to those already experienced.

THE PRISONERS TAKEN ON THE 14TH.  
The sick and wounded prisoners taken at the battle of the 14th inst., have since been released by Gen. Burnside. It is said that the rebels were sent to the Pamlico river in the steamer Housar, and there transferred to the captured steamer Albion. The pilot of the Albion, either through ignorance or accident, ran her upon the obstructions which had been placed in the river, and she finally sunk, but not until after the prisoners were landed. It is thought she may be raised and repaired. There was a very useful boat to the expedition. The balance of the prisoners are still confined on board the Albion.

REORGANIZATION.  
The enlarged proportions of the division under Gen. Burnside's command, when the reinforcements are all here, will require a reorganization of the whole force.

NEWS ITEMS.

The following items of news we extract from the Charleston Courier of 21st inst.:  
News from the Federal Fleet.—Captain Krog, Mr. Dequar, and two other prisoners, captured by the Federal a short time since, have been released by order of Commodore Dupont. They reached Cape Fear Saturday, and were taken to the Federal fleet.

The Federal report of the bombardment of Fort Pulaski states that seventeen of their own number were killed and a number of the garrison of the Fort. The Fort was shelled from the water, and the rebels were not able to defend it. The Savannah papers, but the garrison was completely shelled out by the tremendous force brought to bear upon them. The Federal fleet, however, is not authorized to carry on at Fort Pulaski allowing them to erect their batteries so near







# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1862.

We are almost inclined to feel sorry for the death of General Buel, if he be dead or mortally wounded. We would be wholly inclined, but for considerations hereafter to be stated.

Buel, by all accounts was a polite, courteous, humane and honorable gentleman. He restrained the brutality of his subordinates at Nashville and elsewhere. He appears to have been in truth, what Burnside pretended to be. Naturally, such a man must win esteem even from his foes.

But if General Buel was as represented, he was only the more dangerous at this time. We have all read the story of the traveler and his cloak. When the North wind blew furiously he only wrapped his garments the closer around him, but when the sun shone out he cast it off as unnecessary. The deceitful sunshine of Buel's presence might have relaxed the energy, and dissipated the purpose of the men of Tennessee, but the blustering northern blast of such persons as McCook will cause the people to cling with the more tenacity to their independence, to wrap themselves the closer, and breast the storm more vigorously the fiercer it blows.

We know the bitterness of this man McCook. He was the Chairman of the Ohio delegation in the Charleston Convention, and he then showed the same spirit of intolerance and subjugation that the North now proclaims as the rule of its conduct. His terms to the South were unconditional surrender. We knew exactly the spirit that animated him. We can fully believe all that we have read of the arrogant and vindictive brutality of the man now.

McCook and Burnside and the Honorable Daniel Sickles are doing good, for they are opening the eyes of the Southern people to what they must regard as the alternative to resistance and success. They give us a slight foretaste—a most inadequate idea of what submission or subjugation would bring. They show us the real character of the people with whom we had been so long affiliated, and the real value to be attached to their professions of regard for constitutional rights or even the usages of civilized warfare.

We are pleased to learn that the planters in the Pee Dee section of our State are planting little or no cotton this year, but much corn. So in all the other sections of the State. Of course we speak of things generally, for there are no doubt some persons that will plant their full average of cotton and more, thinking that others will plant corn enough—that there will be very little cotton, and that something will turn up whereby they will make much money. There are some people who, if sent to tophet, would try to cheat the devil, speculate on the brimstone, and huckster out of the life—off at six dollars a bushel. May they be well supplied!

## The Second Cavalry.

We have received the following account of the affair in which a portion of the Second Cavalry (formerly commanded by Col. Sprill) were engaged. The source from which it comes is beyond question, so far as its information goes.

It appears that on Saturday the Second Cavalry, or a part of them, under command of Lt. Col. Robinson went on scout. He had captured a body of Yankee pickets and was returning, when, below Trenton and near Wm. McDaniel's he was surprised and very much cut to pieces by a large body of the enemy's Cavalry, losing his prisoners and a number of men. Lieut. Col. Robinson is among the killed.

Such is the account our correspondent has received, and such the account he has sent us. We trust that fuller accounts may modify it. Col. Robinson was a talented, regularly educated and spirited young officer, and we shall be rejoiced to learn that the report of either his death or capture is incorrect.

## On the Tight Shoulder.

The Congressional Committee of Enquiry put the blame of the Roanoke disaster upon the shoulders of General Huger and late Secretary of War Benjamin. Both we know are to blame, but Secretary Benjamin most.

The Newbern disaster is also a continuation of the same blunder. There may have been faults in the engineering and in the conduct of matters at Newbern, but the prime fault was in the War Department at Richmond, which would not believe that Burnside's expedition was destined for any part of this State, even after it had been days inside of Hatteras, and after the fall of Roanoke would not believe that Newbern was endangered.

Of these matters in connection with Roanoke we spoke at the time of the fall of that island, stating where the blame attached, primarily to Secretary Benjamin, and next to Gen. Huger, who seemed to treat the whole matter not only with indifference but contempt.

We publish to-day the conscription bill as passed by the Confederate Congress. We take it from the Richmond Examiner, and suppose it is in the main correct, but cannot vouch for its being absolutely so.

It is, beyond question, the most important measure that has ever passed the Confederate Congress. It is too important to be discussed without the fullest understanding, not only of the effect of all its provisions, but also of the circumstances under which it was passed and the supposed necessity existing at the time for its passage.

No appeal in opposition could reach Congress before its adjournment on Monday. No fair criticism can be indulged in without a full knowledge of the circumstances, and all the circumstances; and as our representatives in both branches of the Confederate Congress will be home next week, we may have an opportunity of learning from themselves what, perhaps, might be deemed incompatible with the public safety to make public through the press.

These extreme stretches of power can find their justification only in that kind of overruling necessity which permits a man to take human life in self-defence. However sufficient the justification, the necessity must always be a painful one, and the decision upon its existence, involves a deep responsibility. So in this case. We must look upon the action of the law as merely temporary, like martial law. We must look upon its character as not otherwise reconcilable with our ideas of civil freedom. But as we submit for a time to many things from a sense of duty and a conviction of their necessity, so we will submit to this, when equally convinced. We cannot be so with our present knowledge. We cannot say, until we hear more, that further knowledge will not convince us.

Awaiting such explanation as we hope to receive—neither joining in querulous denunciation nor in flippant applause, we withhold any further remarks for the present, aware that this is a matter, the true estimate of which must depend upon a true and full knowledge of all the antecedent circumstances and the apprehended contingencies.

## Now is the Time—Recruits Wanted.

Captain Newkirk advertises for fifty recruits to fill up the ranks of his cavalry company for the war. Good men and good horses wanted. Captain Newkirk is a good officer, and we would suggest that now is the time to enlist as in volunteer companies, and thus secure the bounty offered. By delay, all persons between the ages of 18 and 35, not already in the service, will be enrolled under the conscription act recently passed by Congress, and will be subject to call at any time, without any extra allowance. Fill up the "Rebel Rangers,"

## Port Macon Attack.

We learn that on Saturday or Sunday last fighting commenced at Fort Macon. Col. White had sent out a part of his force on the beach to attack the enemy's pickets. The Yankees turned out three hundred men against them, killing fifteen of our men. The balance retreated to the Fort and Col. White fired cannon at the enemy killing large numbers of them. The enemy has built a battery on the beach within two miles of the Fort and planted mortars and large siege pieces. He has thirteen large vessels outside. He has also sent to Newbern for gun-boats to operate in the Sound. They say that as soon as they take the Fort they are going to Swansboro.

## The Yankees in Onslow—Their True Character—Atrocious Outrages.

We are enabled to lay the following facts, not rumors, before the public. They ought to be sufficient to open the eyes of all to the nature of the enemy to whom we are opposed, and the character of the contest in which we are engaged. If these facts do not show the value of the professions contained in the hypocritical proclamation of Burnside and Goldsborough; if they do not convince all that there are but two alternatives, victory or absolute ruin; if they do not make the blood of every man in the State tingle through his veins, and every heart swell with the desire for revenge, then nothing can be said. These are the mild-mannered saints, the lambs that came to revive the Union feeling in North Carolina, and make proselytes to the way of Abe Lincoln.

The enemy, in their late visit to Onslow county, brought over one regiment, one piece of artillery, and one baggage wagon—such at least seems to be the most correct account. In the neighborhood through which they passed, they committed the most unheard of depredations, carried off all the prominent citizens in iron and ropes, and went so far as to paddle Mr. Henderson, a very respectable man, for having free negroes bound to him. Mr. Pelletier they cowarded, also a Mr. Buck. They took off everything of value they came to get hold of; they broke open trunks—took jewelry, blankets, carpets, towels, everything. In fact they ransacked every house they came to, using the most abusive language to all, and the most insulting to the women. They incited the negroes to fight against their masters, telling them that in a few days they would have a line of pickets from Newbern and Swansboro,—that they would be back in 7 or 8 days with reinforcements.

The robberies committed at the house of Mrs. Sanders are fully confirmed. They even stole all her gold and silver, gold and silver plate, jewelry, gold watch, notes, time deeds, and so forth. In fact, the half of these outrages has not been told. They took everything they could carry off. Their only excuse we hear of, was that Mrs. Sanders had given entertainment to a body of Confederate cavalry some time before.

## The Second Cavalry Regiment.

We learn that the fight in which the Second Cavalry regiment was engaged, took place on Sunday night at John Gillett's, in the lower part of Jones County. The force on our side was about two hundred cavalry under Col. Robinson, that of the enemy was an infantry regiment returning from their raid on Onslow. The Yankees fired from the dwelling house and all the out-houses, and our cavalry were forced to retreat with a loss of five men and fifteen horses killed, and forty double barreled guns left. The Yankees say they have two prisoners, and that they are officers—Col. Robinson is not known to be killed, but has not been heard of since the battle. The enemy's loss is certainly larger than ours.

Mr. Mercier, the French Minister accredited to the court of Abraham Lincoln, has arrived at Richmond, and his arrival has given rise to a good deal of speculation. We presume the ostensible object of his mission is to see about some interests the French government holds in tobacco now stored in Richmond. But of this there can be no certainty. We only assume this, as it would afford an available cloak for any ulterior designs or objects.

He may wish to see the Confederate authorities—to observe things for himself, and to report to his master at the Tuilleries, whose great aim has been to extend what he calls the influence of France. No doubt Louis Napoleon wishes to be as well posted as possible in regard to matters and things occurring on this continent, and from both points of view, and we may rest assured that no sentimental considerations will at all influence his conduct, however large a space they may occupy in his professions.

Mr. Mercier visits Richmond at a critical time, when the temporary capital of the Confederacy is threatened from both sides, and when at all points great events loom up in the not distant future. We took occasion to refer, a few days since, to the not wholly unfounded apprehensions of European intervention against us, and to the disposition of principalities and powers to side with established and recognised governments, unless in cases where the interests of their own selfish policy might impel them to the pursuit of a different course. Let things go favorably for the Confederacy during the next few weeks, and Mr. Mercier and his sovereign may be well enough inclined to recognise the Southern Confederacy as an existing fact demanding recognition, and the war upon it for subjugation as a useless atrocity; but let the course of events be or appear to be different and who knows what resolution the Nephew of His Uncle may come to. Where there is a will, there is always a way, and adroit schemers like the Emperor of the Coup d'Etat would hardly be so hard run for an excuse as to adopt the clumsy one of the wolf when determined to quarrel with the lamb.

That very tobacco business might serve his purpose. From the Peninsula we have really nothing new. What is doing or about being done there we cannot say. Up to the latest telegraphic dates all was as it had been on Wednesday night last.

From the West there is also nothing. A report coming from Marietta, Ga., to the effect that Buel had on Wednesday attacked the united forces of Beauregard and Van Dora and been repulsed with severe and heavy loss, appears to us to be perfectly apocryphal. Unless all accounts lie, Wednesday was one of the days of armistice for burying the dead and attending to the sick and wounded. We mean Wednesday of last week, for of course we have nothing as late as Wednesday of this week.

Telegraph works rather badly and the mails are interrupted and irregular. To arrive at any conclusions we must sift rumors—collate reports and consult every avenue of information, and then our conclusions are far from definite.

The raid of a Federal force to take possession of the line of the Memphis and Charleston Road at Hottelville and Stevens, seems to have been made more with the view of cutting off communication by injuring the track and burning bridges, than by permanently holding such advanced position.

The engine-stealing on the Atlanta and Western Road, was a part of the same scheme. A somewhat circuitous communication for the transportation of munitions and reinforcements is still kept up from Chattanooga by way of Atlanta and round, coming up by the Mobile and Ohio and other roads. The engine-stealers evidently mean to disable this Atlanta and Western Road, and so stop that communication also.

Why we hear no news from other quarters we cannot say. It is no doubt the portentous calm that precedes a most fearful storm.

We rather think Kirby Smith will be shortly on the flank of the Lincolnites at Huntsville and Steyer

son and others will be in their rear between there and Marietta. The waters of the Cumberland and Tennessee will soon be at their low stage, and we will therefore be placed on more of an equality with the enemy in that respect.

We do not like to indulge in those beautiful programmes, which, foretelling brilliant success, look so dazzling upon paper. Burnham has been thoroughly worked out of the Southern people, and nothing that looks like "blowing" will go down. Without yielding to any extravagant expectation, we can still say that our hopes are now much higher than they were some months since, because our people seem to be more soberly and "terribly in earnest." The chain of disaster has been broken, if but ever so little and the blow at Shiloh was not little.

GOOD FRIDAY is a day honored by several Christian denominations, and in some countries marked by a cessation of all secular pursuits. Others again accord to it no special observance. There are no sabbaths in war-time, and few holidays, and even Catholics themselves, in Catholic countries, have fought battles on Friday, while Sunday is notoriously a day marked by decisive engagements.

To-day, we are just reminded, is Good Friday, and of course the day after to-morrow will be Easter Sunday, and then Lent will be over, but hardly the days of abstinence. We defy Helioagabalus himself to indulge his gluttonous propensities with no greater facilities for their gratification than our market affords. Even an ostrich would be put to it to find his favourite repast of old iron lingers with a little oil on them.

The military necessities of the Confederacy make demands upon the transporting powers of the railroads to which the mails themselves must yield the precedence, and the result is that our exchange list may be put down as an uncertain quantity. Sometimes it is large and interesting, and sometimes again it is neither. None of the Raleigh papers have reached us this week, and to-day nothing West of Raleigh, unless it be a Wadesboro Argus, which probably came by way of Chowan. We have no Norfolk Day Book. We do not know what has happened to our venerable friend of the Goldsboro Tribune, for it has ceased coming. We are pretty much thrown upon our own resources and our files for matter to interest our readers.

## Personal Experiences in Lincolnland.

By J. M. P.

Our numerous visitors are all actuated by curiosity, or a desire, either to put to the test of friendly conversation to entrap us into some acknowledgement, or to insult us and abuse Secesh. They had not yet learnt the word Rebel. There was one exception, however, in an old steamboat Captain, who kept tavern on the river; he was orthodox, according to our acceptance, and had suffered most of his property to be taken, and he was "too many sheets in the wind" to pilot his case through. He had got hold of one of our thirsty guards, and by playing him well with liquor, had induced the fellow to take him to see us. He came to offer us the use of a fine library, and to place at our disposal his services to procure anything we might want. Unfortunately, however, the fellow was not the Captain he seemed to be, and he was not the friend of his kind, for we were not allowed to receive the books for fear they might contain some dreadful Secesh plot.

We wrote to Cincinnati for identification, but upon one pretext or another, our letter was detained for a long time. In the meanwhile some of our sapient jokers had got into their heads the notion of capturing a "Knights of the Golden Circle," which society had ramifications throughout the entire country, and a great effort was being made to ferret out its members in Cincinnati, and here was the golden opportunity. Detaining our letter under false pretenses, they sent up the country for a man called Bill Rainey, a clergyman of some position, and a great deal of money. But to return to the subject of the "Knights of the Golden Circle," which society had ramifications throughout the entire country, and a great effort was being made to ferret out its members in Cincinnati, and here was the golden opportunity. Detaining our letter under false pretenses, they sent up the country for a man called Bill Rainey, a clergyman of some position, and a great deal of money. 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